

1961, the open and unabated racial discrimination that prevailed in some parts of the country was so severe that the southern colleges who were competing were instructed to walk out of any round in which an African American was competing. Undeterred, Judge Wheatley went on not only to win the tournament, but to be awarded the Pi Kappa Delta gold debate key for his outstanding performance. Following his studies at Howard, Judge Wheatley returned to the University of the Pacific in 1960, where he graduated with a degree in Sociology and Psychology.

Following a successful law school career at Willamette University in Oregon, where he won the school's Moot Court Competition and served as a teaching assistant before earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, Judge Wheatley began serving as Deputy Attorney General for the State of California in 1965. He later went into private practice in Oakland, where he engaged in general litigation practice and was one of the lead attorneys in a precedent-setting class-action lawsuit against the savings and loan industry. In 1972, he became General Counsel for the California Teachers Association, representing the organization's 300,000 members in several noteworthy cases which resulted in precedent-setting rulings in favor of public school teachers' rights and benefits.

Judge Wheatley was appointed as a Judge of the Alameda County Municipal Court on July 1, 1981 by California Governor Edmond G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr., and was elevated to the Alameda County Superior Court when all of the courts in Alameda County were unified in 1998. Known for his tendency to give many young defendants the choice to "Go to school or go to jail," Judge Wheatley's career on the bench has been marked by his steadfast commitment to serving the young people in our community who are most in need of guidance.

Judge Wheatley's outstanding dedication and accomplishments have not only impacted countless young lives, but have also been recognized by a number of the professional organizations of which he is a member. He has not only been inducted into the Charles Houston Bar Association's Hall of Fame, but has also received its "Judicial Excellence Award." In addition, he received the Bernard S. Jefferson Award from the California Association of Black Lawyers as its Judge of the Year in 2001, and has also been named the Lend-A-Hand Foundation's "Man of the Year." This past August, he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in recognition of having practiced law for over 40 years and made significant contributions to the cause of justice. In addition, he was also given the A. Leon Higginbotham Memorial Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association in recognition of his intellectual accomplishments, professional achievements and community contributions.

Today Judge Wheatley's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly young lives, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his rulings and his commitment to true justice have had and will continue to have on our legal system. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank Judge Horace Wheatley for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

CELEBRATING HISCOCK & BARCLAY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hiscock & Barclay, a legal institution in the State of New York.

In 1855 founding partners and brothers L. Harris and Frank Hiscock opened a two-man law office in Tully, NY.

H. Douglas Barclay later became a partner in the firm, now known as Hiscock & Barclay. Mr. Barclay dedicated 40 years to the practice and has also served his fellow citizens as a 20-year member of the New York State Senate, his country as a President George H.W. Bush appointee as director of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and was named United States Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador by current President Bush.

Throughout the years Hiscock & Barclay's team has grown to 160 attorneys working in offices in Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester, Albany and New York City. The firm's attorneys have held various auxiliary roles including: former general counsels of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Social Services and Health Planning Commission; a nationally syndicated media commentator; district attorneys and Court of Appeals judges; New York State and Federal Representatives; a former NFL football player; the former general counsel of a North American trade association; and a World War II prisoner of war.

In the last century and a half, Hiscock & Barclay has evolved from a practice dedicated to railroad, banking and manufacturing law, to one that now covers 26 practice areas ranging from construction and environmental law, to labor, real estate and international business services.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Hiscock & Barclay, a firm with a long tradition of commitment to defending the law, upon this, their 150th anniversary.

ELEPHANT APPRECIATION DAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the House of Representative's attention to September 22 as Elephant Appreciation Day, a day designated to pay tribute to one of the most iconic members of the animal kingdom.

Elephants have always generated a special and unique affection from young and old alike. One need only ask the millions of Americans who visit zoos and circuses each year to learn that for most, the elephants are by far the biggest attraction, both figuratively and literally.

While we admire their strength, we also recognize their vulnerability as highly endangered species, challenged by fragmented habitats and scarce resources in their natural range.

Asian elephants, in particular, have had a long, rich history living and working with humans, however, today there are fewer than 35,000 remaining in the world. Although ivory poaching is a factor in Asia, the primary threat to Asian elephants is the loss of habitat and the resulting conflicts with an ever-expanding human population. Most experts agree that the future survival of this species relies on several factors: habitat preservation, public conservation education and successful captive breeding.

Today I would like to talk about one of the success stories in the fight to save the Asian elephant—one which takes place right in my backyard in Polk County, FL—home to the largest and most genetically diverse population of Asian elephants in North America.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation or CEC. The Ringling Bros. CEC is a state of the art facility dedicated to the research, reproduction and retirement of Asian elephants and reflects the commitment and stewardship of Ringling Bros. and the Feld family to the future survival of this magnificent species.

Located on over 200 acres of central Florida wilderness, the Ringling Bros. CEC is home to dozens of Asian elephants, as well as the most successful breeding program outside of Asia. With 18 young elephants born in the past decade, the Ringling Bros. program accounts for over 40 percent of Asian elephant births in North America during this same time period.

In addition, the CEC is a focal point for researchers from around the world who come for the unique opportunity to study elephant reproductive and behavioral science in a hands-on setting. Information gleaned from our Florida herd is applied to wild and managed populations in Asia in an effort to promote better conservation, preservation and husbandry.

Ringling Bros.'s commitment to conservation and the future of this beloved circus icon goes beyond its work at the CEC. Ringling Bros. is also committed to educating its patrons about the challenges facing Asian elephants in the wild and the need to support conservation efforts. In addition, Ringling Bros. is an active member of the International Elephant Foundation, providing financial support and technical, hands on expertise. Ringling Bros.'s elephant managers and veterinarians have participated in workshops and symposia in Thailand, India and Sumatra and have worked side by side with their Asian counterparts in elephant camps and wildlife parks.

According to Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, "[a] concerted effort to save the Asian elephant is imperative. Zoos are doing their best with the resources they have, but most can't afford to maintain a large breeding group of elephants. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation is dedicated to saving the Asian elephant and has both the resources and the commitment to succeed."

Thanks to this commitment, Elephant Appreciation Day of 2005 finds the fate of the world's Asian elephants a little more secure. I urge my colleagues to continue their efforts in support of this trend through continued funding for the Asian and African Elephant Conservation Acts.